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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

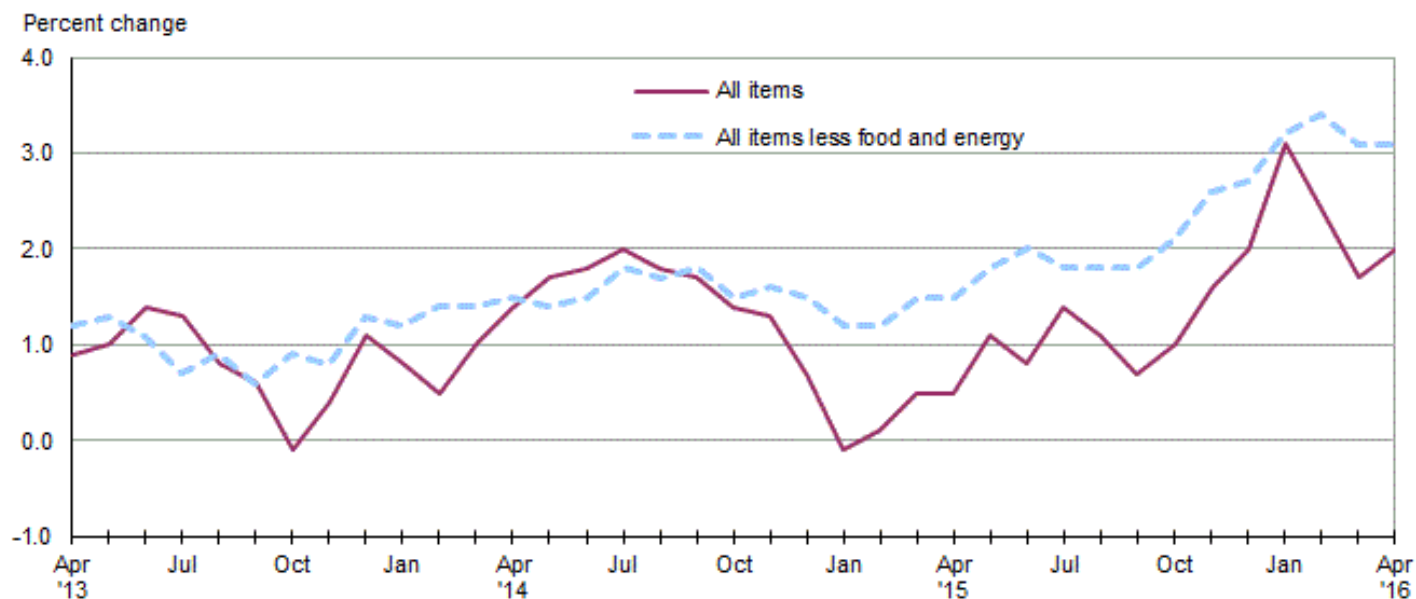
### Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — April 2016

**Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 2.0 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.2 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices decreased 8.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, April 2013–April 2016**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices edged down 0.1 percent for the month of April. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home declined 0.2 percent, while prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.1 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.9 percent, but prices for food at home decreased 0.9 percent since a year ago.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 2.2 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.4 percent). Prices for natural gas service edged down 0.2 percent, and prices for electricity declined 0.8 percent in the same period.

Energy prices decreased 8.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-12.7 percent). Prices paid for electricity decreased 2.7 percent, and natural gas service prices decreased 1.6 percent for during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in April. Higher prices for education and communication (0.6 percent) and recreation (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (6.1 percent), apparel (4.8 percent), and recreation (4.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in education and communication (-0.5 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.2 percent).

**Table A. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

| Month          | 2011    |        | 2012    |        | 2013    |        | 2014    |        | 2015    |        | 2016    |        |
|----------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
|                | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual | Monthly | Annual |
| January.....   | 0.9     | 1.8    | 0.8     | 2.1    | 0.8     | 2.0    | 0.5     | 0.8    | -0.3    | -0.1   | 0.7     | 3.1    |
| February.....  | 0.5     | 2.3    | 0.5     | 2.1    | 0.7     | 2.2    | 0.5     | 0.5    | 0.7     | 0.1    | 0.0     | 2.4    |
| March.....     | 1.1     | 3.0    | 1.0     | 2.0    | 0.1     | 1.3    | 0.6     | 1.0    | 1.0     | 0.5    | 0.3     | 1.7    |
| April.....     | 0.5     | 3.3    | 0.0     | 1.5    | -0.4    | 0.9    | 0.0     | 1.4    | -0.1    | 0.5    | 0.2     | 2.0    |
| May.....       | 0.0     | 3.1    | 0.1     | 1.6    | 0.1     | 1.0    | 0.4     | 1.7    | 1.0     | 1.1    |         |        |
| June.....      | -0.4    | 2.9    | -0.4    | 1.6    | -0.1    | 1.4    | 0.1     | 1.8    | -0.3    | 0.8    |         |        |
| July.....      | -0.4    | 2.4    | -0.1    | 1.9    | -0.1    | 1.3    | 0.1     | 2.0    | 0.7     | 1.4    |         |        |
| August.....    | 0.2     | 2.4    | 0.6     | 2.3    | 0.1     | 0.8    | -0.1    | 1.8    | -0.3    | 1.1    |         |        |
| September..... | 0.5     | 3.1    | 0.4     | 2.2    | 0.2     | 0.6    | 0.0     | 1.7    | -0.4    | 0.7    |         |        |
| October.....   | 0.0     | 2.8    | 0.8     | 3.0    | 0.1     | -0.1   | -0.1    | 1.4    | 0.2     | 1.0    |         |        |
| November.....  | -0.1    | 3.0    | -1.0    | 2.1    | -0.5    | 0.4    | -0.7    | 1.3    | 0.0     | 1.6    |         |        |
| December.....  | -0.5    | 2.2    | -0.7    | 1.9    | 0.0     | 1.1    | -0.5    | 0.7    | -0.1    | 2.0    |         |        |

**The May 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on June 16, 2016.**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties in the State of California.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

| Item and Group  | Indexes      |              |              | Percent change from- |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Feb.<br>2016 | Mar.<br>2016 | Apr.<br>2016 | Apr.<br>2015         | Feb.<br>2016 | Mar.<br>2016 |
| <b>Expenditure category</b>                                       |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All items .....   | 247.113      | 247.873      | 248.368      | 2.0                  | 0.5          | 0.2          |
| All items (1967=100) .....  | 730.081      | 732.326      | 733.789      | -                    | -            | -            |
| Food and beverages .....  | 253.685      | 251.983      | 251.897      | 1.2                  | -0.7         | 0.0          |
| Food .....  | 253.784      | 252.276      | 251.963      | 1.1                  | -0.7         | -0.1         |
| Food at home .....  | 259.695      | 257.293      | 256.657      | -0.9                 | -1.2         | -0.2         |
| Food away from home .....   | 242.695      | 242.309      | 242.399      | 3.9                  | -0.1         | 0.0          |
| Alcoholic beverages .....   | 237.203      | 232.810      | 235.990      | 2.1                  | -0.5         | 1.4          |
| Housing .....   | 273.047      | 274.461      | 274.434      | 3.4                  | 0.5          | 0.0          |
| Shelter .....   | 310.774      | 312.834      | 312.811      | 4.2                  | 0.7          | 0.0          |
| Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....                    | 325.509      | 327.213      | 327.656      | 4.4                  | 0.7          | 0.1          |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....        | 322.226      | 324.010      | 324.669      | 4.0                  | 0.8          | 0.2          |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> ..... | 322.208      | 323.991      | 324.650      | 4.0                  | 0.8          | 0.2          |
| Fuels and utilities .....   | 295.788      | 294.079      | 295.939      | 0.4                  | 0.1          | 0.6          |
| Household energy .....  | 259.039      | 256.816      | 255.231      | -2.2                 | -1.5         | -0.6         |
| Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....                              | 257.877      | 255.612      | 253.993      | -2.2                 | -1.5         | -0.6         |
| Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....                                  | 300.681      | 300.681      | 298.355      | -2.7                 | -0.8         | -0.8         |
| Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....                  | 204.573      | 196.839      | 196.540      | -1.6                 | -3.9         | -0.2         |
| Household furnishings and operations .....                        | 116.170      | 116.467      | 115.712      | -0.2                 | -0.4         | -0.6         |
| Apparel .....   | 116.730      | 115.327      | 113.514      | 4.8                  | -2.8         | -1.6         |
| Transportation .....  | 185.554      | 190.285      | 193.329      | -3.6                 | 4.2          | 1.6          |
| Private transportation .....                                      | 180.257      | 185.199      | 187.864      | -3.5                 | 4.2          | 1.4          |
| Motor fuel .....  | 191.643      | 208.369      | 217.508      | -12.8                | 13.5         | 4.4          |
| Gasoline (all types) .....  | 187.573      | 204.098      | 213.056      | -12.7                | 13.6         | 4.4          |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....                   | 187.470      | 204.218      | 213.367      | -12.9                | 13.8         | 4.5          |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....              | 181.278      | 195.380      | 203.592      | -12.5                | 12.3         | 4.2          |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....                   | 180.614      | 196.381      | 204.154      | -11.7                | 13.0         | 4.0          |
| Medical care .....  | 457.056      | 449.147      | 448.437      | 6.1                  | -1.9         | -0.2         |
| Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....                                   | 107.655      | 106.944      | 107.340      | 4.4                  | -0.3         | 0.4          |
| Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....                  | 144.245      | 145.086      | 145.919      | -0.5                 | 1.2          | 0.6          |
| Other goods and services .....                                    | 392.085      | 389.418      | 389.765      | 2.1                  | -0.6         | 0.1          |
| <b>Commodity and service group</b>                                |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All items .....   | 247.113      | 247.873      | 248.368      | 2.0                  | 0.5          | 0.2          |
| Commodities .....   | 173.879      | 174.717      | 175.171      | -0.9                 | 0.7          | 0.3          |
| Commodities less food & beverages .....                           | 132.515      | 134.345      | 134.996      | -2.4                 | 1.9          | 0.5          |
| Nondurables less food & beverages .....                           | 169.987      | 173.393      | 174.794      | -2.7                 | 2.8          | 0.8          |
| Durables .....  | 95.816       | 96.090       | 96.000       | -2.1                 | 0.2          | -0.1         |
| Services .....  | 312.265      | 312.952      | 313.483      | 3.6                  | 0.4          | 0.2          |
| <b>Special aggregate indexes</b>                                  |              |              |              |                      |              |              |
| All items less medical care .....                                 | 238.028      | 239.117      | 239.656      | 1.7                  | 0.7          | 0.2          |
| All items less shelter .....                                      | 219.387      | 219.558      | 220.292      | 0.7                  | 0.4          | 0.3          |
| Commodities less food .....                                       | 136.919      | 138.610      | 139.335      | -2.2                 | 1.8          | 0.5          |
| Nondurables .....   | 212.307      | 213.437      | 214.185      | -0.6                 | 0.9          | 0.4          |
| Nondurables less food .....                                       | 175.929      | 178.984      | 180.497      | -2.3                 | 2.6          | 0.8          |
| Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....                | 323.216      | 321.891      | 323.431      | 2.8                  | 0.1          | 0.5          |
| Services less medical care services .....                         | 299.917      | 301.292      | 301.870      | 3.4                  | 0.7          | 0.2          |
| Energy .....  | 218.222      | 227.738      | 232.795      | -8.6                 | 6.7          | 2.2          |
| All items less energy .....                                       | 251.168      | 251.274      | 251.429      | 2.8                  | 0.1          | 0.1          |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

| Item and Group                       | Indexes      |              |              | Percent change from- |              |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                      | Feb.<br>2016 | Mar.<br>2016 | Apr.<br>2016 | Apr.<br>2015         | Feb.<br>2016 | Mar.<br>2016 |
| All items less food and energy ..... | 251.059      | 251.438      | 251.672      | 3.1                  | 0.2          | 0.1          |

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.